Volume 23, No. 24, September 30, 2016

Nation

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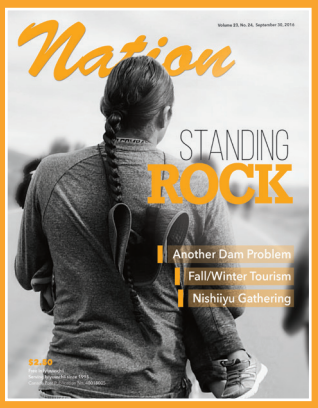

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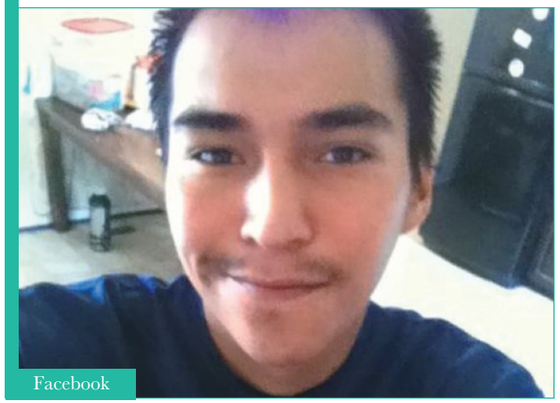
Editorial

Shoot first, ask questions later?

by Will Nicholls



Facebook

North Battleford, Saskatchewan, lawyer Eleanore Sunchild was eloquent in describing the context of the shooting August 9 of a 22-year-old Cree man, Colten Boushie. "There's been more than 100 years of stereotypes and racism building, and the Battlefords here have a particular history," Sunchild said. "Our peoples are not equal. They have never been equal."

A member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation, Coulten drove his car into a farmer's driveway because of a flat tire. We know a car window was then smashed and Boushie was shot by Gerald Stanley, the farmer who owned the property, while Boushie's passengers fled for their lives. Stanley has been charged with second-degree murder.

Boushie's cousin, Eric Meechance, said they ran after trying to drive away and colliding with another vehicle. "Running is probably what saved all of our lives, you know, because if he's going to shoot one, he's probably would have shot us all," he said. "He wasn't shooting to scare us, he was shooting to kill."

The local RCMP detachment then helped frame the story by stating in a press release that the other passengers in the car were taken into custody as part of a theft investigation. The passengers were not charged and were subsequently released.

Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations said the RCMP statement "provided just enough prejudicial information" for people to draw the conclusion that the shooting was somehow justified.

Chief Clint Wuttunee of the Red Pheasant First Nation said the media's initial portrayal of the event, based on the RCMP release, made the incident sound like a crime was about to be committed by the passengers in the car.

A GoFundMe page was set up to raise $10,000 to help Boushie's family cover funeral expenses. Another fund set up to help farmer Gerald Stanley, however, has received substantial support from his community. Ben Kautz, a municipal councillor in nearby Browning, wrote in an online posting that Stanley's "only mistake was leaving three witnesses."

Stanley has since been released on bail. One wonders if a First Nation person would have received the same treatment if they had murdered a non-Native driver looking for help.

In Canada, the key provision in the Criminal Code is that no one may use "more force than is necessary" and then, only when "he believes on reasonable grounds that he can not otherwise preserve himself from death or grievous bodily harm."

In section 35, the Code goes on to require that one must show that, "he declined further conflict and quitted or retreated from it (the assault) as far as it was feasible to do so before the necessity of preserving himself … arose." Moreover, the right to use physical force to defend non-family members is more limited than it is in many states, as are a Canadian's rights to repulse trespassers on one's property, or to use force to stop the commission of serious or violent crimes (sections 24, 40, and 41).

It is no question that this was a crime. What I find disturbing are the responses throughout Canada. I have been told this is Conservative trolling. Online commenters tried to blame the Indian Act, the Liberal Party, the reservation system, Aboriginals not paying tax and telling us, "Get a job, pay taxes and leave the past in the past."

What does that have to do with getting shot because of a vehicle problem in a rural area? It just shows that the problem is bigger than the truth here in Canada.

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News

by Joshua Loon

Golfing for a cause

The first annual Kate Sharl Foundation **Golf Benefit for special needs children** takes wing

The Kate Sharl Foundation is a non-profit organization. It is intended for Cree Children living with special needs in Eeyou Istchee. Their mission is to provide Cree children with special needs from 0 to 18 years of age opportunity to access high-quality, culturally appropriate resources that recognize their unique physical and developmental challenges and that will improve their quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential.

The Kate Sharl Foundation (KSF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide Indigenous special needs children with access high-quality, culturally appropriate resources to help them overcome their physical and developmental challenges.

On September 9, the KSF hosted its first annual golf benefit at the Château Cartier golf course in Gatineau to help raise funds for the fledgling foundation and give it some much-needed publicity. A partnership with CREECO, the event raised over $30,000 for the foundation.

The idea for the event dates back to 2014 when the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises (CREECO) invited KSF to one of its annual golf benefits. "That event was a big hit, so we thought it would be an excellent idea to host our own golf benefit," explained KSF president Judy Nakogee.

Nakogee and her board members decided they wanted to do something large and memorable for these children with special needs. "Planning our first golf benefit wasn't easy," admitted Nakogee. "My team and I have never hosted a charity event this big. But thanks to James Napash – he helped us get sponsors."

Finding sponsors for a summer event isn't easy because it's peak season for events, with summer sports tournaments and fishing derbies all looking for sponsorships. Yet, 18 major companies, including the James Bay Eeyou Corporation, sponsored the KSF golf benefit.

Over 60 people attended, including parents of children with special needs. "I appreciated that they showed up, this tells me that they support the Kate Sharl Foundation, and understand what we are trying to do," said Nakogee.

Maggie Brien of Mistissini was the guest speaker and talked about her son Elias, who was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker malformation and Variant Syndrome (confirmed) and Freeman-Sheldon syndrome (not confirmed yet). Brien said the doctors informed her that Elias could have more syndromes; one of which doesn't have a name yet. They call it 9q34.11.

Brien was invited because people would get a better understanding of what parents who have children with special needs go through every day. "On the day (Elias) had the seizure, he lost control of everything like eating solid foods, playing, rolling over and sitting up on his own," Brien said. "He

couldn't do those things anymore. He still needs an O2 sat monitor and oxygen with him."

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come attended the event with his wife, Mary-Ann. "We already have daycares in our Cree communities," he said. "I was pleased to see the Wemindji daycare assign a room for special needs, and I encourage other Cree communities to do the same."

When parents apply for financial assistance from the foundation, the request will go before the review board, which will decide if the Cree Health Board can cover the expense.

"KSF doesn't cover the full amount," said Nakogee. "We also have requirements for the parents. For example, last year KSF sent two children to summer camps down south, the parents paid part of the cost and KSF covered the remaining balance."

The name of the foundation comes from the mother of Kate Sharl, an Innu from Pointe Bleu, Nakogee noted. "Her goal is to help all children with special needs not only in Eeyou Istchee but in other First Nations. It is possible. Right now it's under our wings, dreams can come true."

For those interested in contributing to the KSF: www.katesharlfoundation.com

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With the **Site C Dam** in BC, the Trudeau government betrays promises to First Nations

Damming the Peace

by Dan Isaac

The Treaty 8 Justice for the Peace River Caravan arrived in Montreal September 12 after travelling more than 4200 kilometres across Canada to protest the Trudeau government's betrayal in granting approval to the Site C Dam on the Peace River in northwestern BC.

The grassroots campaigners were welcomed at a rally in Montreal September 14 outside the Federal Court of Appeal by a number of First Nations leaders, activists and allies, including the Regional Chief of the AFN of Quebec and Labrador, Ghislain Picard.

"Whenever there's great adversity and challenges to Indigenous people, we will always come together and support one another," Picard told the BC travellers.

The rally was an expression of solidarity with the Treaty 8 First Nations opposition to the federal Liberal approval for the Site C Dam. The approval contradicts Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explicit promises during and after last fall's election to respect the social acceptability of industrial projects that impact First Nations. If built, it would flood 5,550 hectares of land, destroying some of Treaty 8's heritage and burial sites as well as infringing on their constitutionally protected right to subsistence hunting and fishing.

Earlier in the week, National AFN Chief Perry Bellegarde condemned the Liberal government for its approval of Site C. "Why don't they follow their own constitution? Section 35. Existing treaty rights," Bellegarde told the Canadian Press. "It really comes back to building a healthy, respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples and we just don't see it happening here."

The speakers at the rally included Picard, the Union of the BC Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Kanesatake's Grand Chief Serge Simon. The speeches emphasized the need to come together as Indigenous Nations in support of one another's struggles.

"If any Indigenous community asks for help, all the treaty allies have a responsibility to act on their behalf and ensure their voices are heard and their decisions are respected," said Simon.

"There's an international convergence of Indigenous peoples coming together with a sense of common purpose," Grand Chief Phillip told *the Nation*. "Collectively we have to stand up and challenge the way major resource development projects are being rammed forward by industry and government."

Phillip, who attended the beginning of the trial, noted the tension inside the courtroom. "Three of the justices were asking a lot of questions, and that signaled to me they understand the gravity of the legal and constitutional issues at hand, and the ramifications their decisions will have," said Phillip. "There's a lot riding on this, no question about it."

The problem, he said, is with inadequate environmental assessment, especially at the provincial level in BC where a right-wing government has been in power since 2001. A larger protest on the level of Standing Rock may follow if the bulldozers move in.

"The provincial environmental assessment legislation is a cruel joke – it simply rubberstamps all development proposals," said Phillip. "Should the Federal Court of Appeal side with the federal Liberals, Standing Rock is the example we're going to have to follow. We have no choice but to push back on these large-scale resource development projects that are not subject to any rigorous environmental oversight."

But Phillip says it's not to late for the Trudeau government to right the ship. "A retraction of approval by the federal government would go a long way in restoring our waning faith in the fulfillment of the promises made by the Liberals before last year's federal election," he said.

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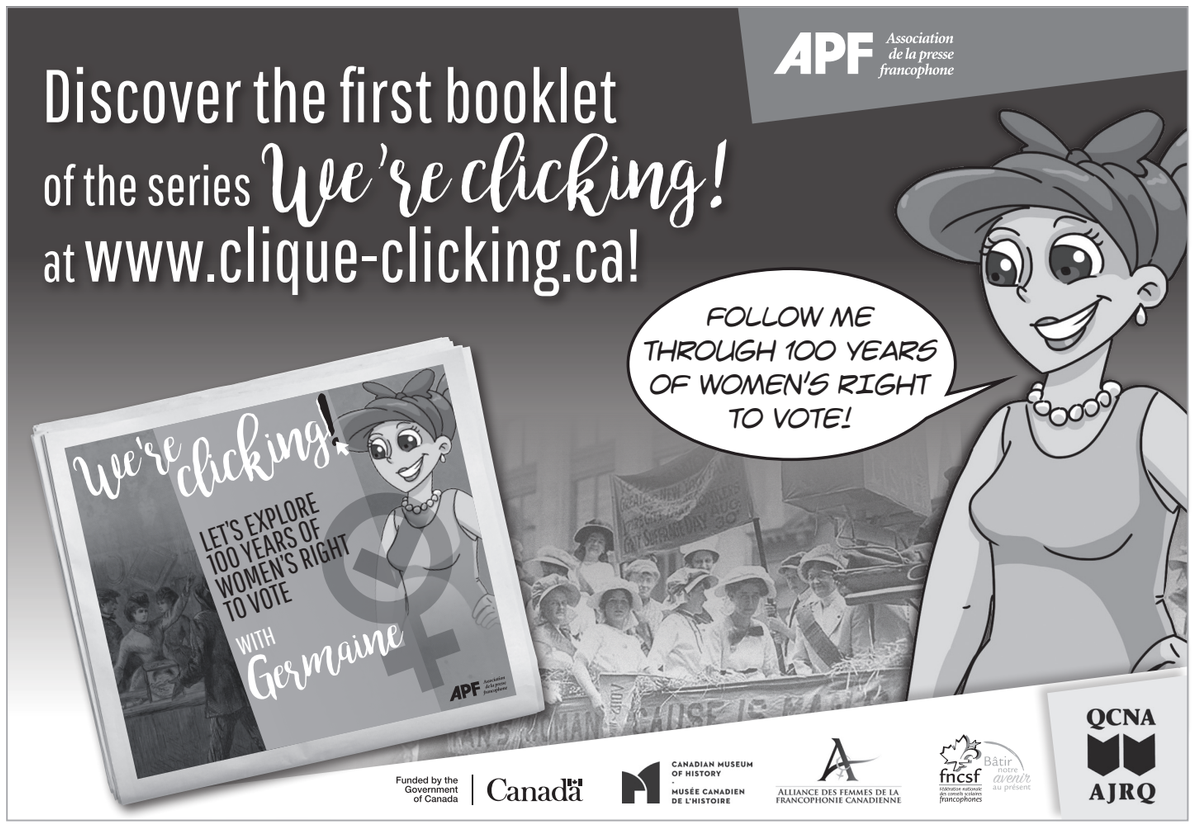
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In Brief

MMIWG Inquiry gets boost from Quebec

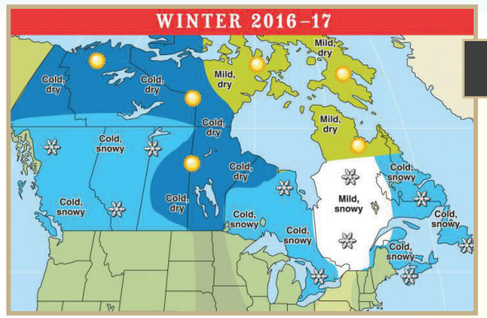
The pressure from the Cree Nation Government and other Aboriginal groups in Quebec for an independent provincial judicial inquiry into allegations of police abuse of Native women in Val-d'Or and other northern centres appears to have paid off in part.

Quebec Aboriginal Affairs Minister Geoffrey Kelley and Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée announced that the Quebec government has adopted a decree to give the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls the powers of a commission of inquiry under Quebec law, including the power to compel witnesses to appear and produce documents and to formulate recommendations.

The National Inquiry will also be empowered to consider relations between Indigenous women and Quebec institutions, such as police, education and health and social services.

However, the Cree Nation Government says Quebec's gesture fails to address the key issue – the allegations of police misconduct towards Indigenous women, saying the issue of police misconduct concerning Aboriginal women is likely to be drowned out by the many other issues the National Inquiry will examine.

The CNG maintains its stand that an independent provincial judicial inquiry should be empowered to specifically address this matter.



Cold winter in store?

Surprise, surprise, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac, it's going to be a cold winter – in the rest of Canada

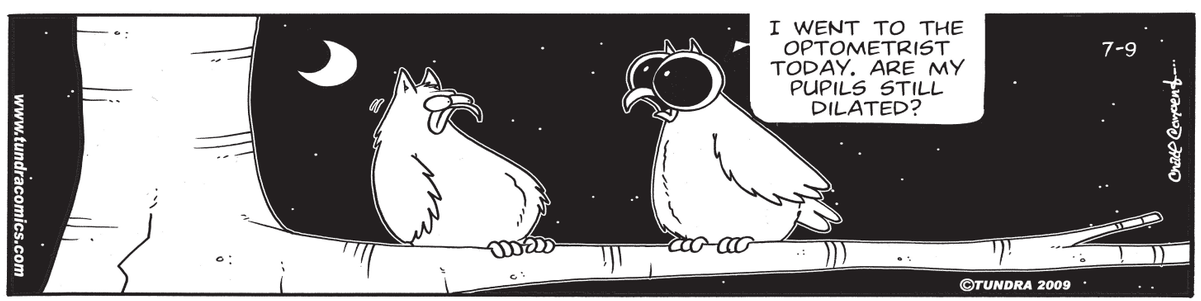
While those in Eeyou Istchee would expect nothing less, most of Canada should be preparing for a much snowier holiday season than they've experienced in the past couple years.

As far as Quebec is concerned, we're looking mild and snowy all the way to Whapmagoostui and across to Newfoundland and Labrador, where the cold snowiness starts. Our Innu and Inuit friends in the far north of Quebec will have to settle for mild and dry.

"How do we do it?" Almanac spokesperson Jack Burnett asked. "We take the three things that the founder of the Old Farmer's Almanac used, which were long-term weather trends in an area, more localized things, and finally sunspots and solar radiation."

Historically speaking, the Old Farmer's Almanac has been roughly 80% accurate.

The Nation apologizes for a wrongly attributed quote in issue 23-22. The quote "You have to be tri-lingual. You have to speak the language that resonates with the Indigenous community, the investors and the government, and they're all different." was said by Nadine St-Louis but mistakenly attributed to Mèlina Tsigounis.



PEACEFUL PROTECTORS

Federal intervention in the pipeline conflict at Standing Rock slows but **doesn't stop construction**

by Jesse Staniforth
Photos by Gail Chamberlain

After a federal US court judge denied the Standing Rock Sioux's request for a temporary injunction against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) September 9, the large encampment at the North Dakota reservation was disappointed but not surprised. What they didn't expect was that, only hours later, three US government departments would jointly demand a voluntary stop to construction.

"I had a feeling it was going to happen – there were just too many people involved, all standing with Standing Rock, for it not to happen," said Gail Chamberlain, an Ojibway craftswoman from Wikwemikong, Ontario, who now lives between the Mohawk communities of Kahnawake and Kanesatake. "When we heard that he had stopped it, everyone was cheering, there were celebrations – there was a powwow! People were dancing."

But it wasn't over, and nobody at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation – a community that combines members of the Hunkpapa Lakota and Yanktonai Dakota Nations with other members of Anishinaabe Nations – believed the government intervention was the end of the story.

Indeed, on September 16, another federal court ruling threw out a restraining order that barred the Standing Rock tribal chairman and several other pipeline protesters from "unlawfully interfering" with construction. The judge said the North Dakota court ruling from August no longer served a legitimate purpose.

Opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (also called the Bakken Pipeline) has been simmering for years. The 30-inch diameter pipeline is to be buried a minimum of four feet underground and can carry up to 450,000 barrels of fracked crude oil per day from North Dakota to Illinois. DAPL's Texas-based parent company Energy Transfer Partners, LP, has said that the project will create between 12 and 15 permanent jobs, along with up to 4,000 temporary jobs generated during the construction process.

Because the DAPL relied on eminent domain laws to seize private land for the pipeline, opposition to the project in rural areas came from both Native and non-Native residents. Native DAPL opponents have cited the threat from oil spills to the Missouri River – which it is slated to travel under – a water supply for local First Nations. Non-Native farmers protesting the DAPL, meanwhile, worry about damage to the soil and erosion that might result from the project, as well as a potential threat to local wildlife. As early as 2014, Iowa governor Terry Branstad ignored petitions signed by 2300 DAPL opponents

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demanding he stop the pipeline, which would cut across Iowa on its way to Illinois.

But the battle began to intensify in August, when the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe organized an international campaign called ReZpect Our Water, and filed an injunction against the US Army Corps of Engineers in order to halt construction. At that point opposition to the pipeline became centred in Native communities, particularly the Standing Rock Indian Reservation itself, and soon Native supporters began journeying to Standing Rock to join the movement. By the beginning of September, the protest at Standing Rock had become the largest gathering of First Nations in over 100 years. Standing Rock resident JR American Horse told the Associated Press in mid-September that he stopped counting the flags of Nations represented there after he reached 300.

"People went for a week and ended up deciding to stay for the long run," said Chamberlain, who brought a banner from the Nation to hang at the site. "I met people who'd seen it on social media or on the news, all over the place, and just decided to drive down there."

Food is provided daily on-site by donation, and early worries by Standing Rock residents that they would not be able to accommodate a large number of visitors have been eased by the strong organization within the two camps. There is an on-site school. And while many say they intend to camp through the winter, locals are speculating that provisional buildings will probably go up to protect the camp's more vulnerable members.

Chamberlain added that if Crees or other supporters wish to send goods to help out the camps at Standing Rock, what the water protectors need now are materials to help them through the winter, in particular tarps, blankets, sleeping bags, rechargeable batteries, rechargeable lights and portable heaters.

"Everyone who went down there brought something. No one showed up empty handed," said Chamberlain, who paid for her trip to Standing Rock by holding a 50/50 raffle that raised more than $2000. "I originally thought I'd bring food and water, but I figured once I was down there I'd check to see what they needed, only to find out they have plenty. Everybody's bringing food and water in by the truckload. So what I did was I brought accessories to help people stay on social media – rechargeable batteries, phone chargers, things like that."

Kahnawake resident and K-103 radio host Timothy Armstrong, who is originally from Manitoba's Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, arrived after a 40-hour drive.

"I pulled off the highway and was greeted by two young local men swinging a can full of burning sage with which they smudged every vehicle coming to and from the camp," said Armstrong by e-mail. "It was a homecoming of sorts. Here were so many individuals, some 5000 on the day that I arrived that shared not only my heritage but also my beliefs. This kind of Indigenous coming together was unprecedented and I knew that I was part of something very special. The mood at the camp was always upbeat, with a hand wave and greeting of 'Where are you from?' from everyone I passed."

Standing Rock opponents to the DAPL have characterized themselves as "protectors, not protestors." There is a policy of strict non-violence that includes bans on weapons, drugs and alcohol at the camps. "Every day they emphasized that it was a peaceful demonstration, and that no one was going to cross the line, no one was going to incite the National Guard or do anything," said Chamberlain.

Chamberlain noted that roughly a quarter of the opponents are non-Native, including those who are there independently or with environmental organizations such as Greenpeace.

In the confrontation between DAPL opponents and security guards on September 3, protestors allege they were attacked by employees of the private security firm contracted by the Energy Transfer Partners. The guards used pepper spray and dogs, many of which were described as poorly trained. (One video shows a dog biting its handler.)

By September 9, the simmer had come to a boil. Standing Rock's DAPL opponents remained peaceful, but pressure was rising among those committed to preventing the pipeline through civil disobedience. That afternoon, US District Judge James E. Boasberg was scheduled to rule on the August lawsuit from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe demanding an injunction to the pipeline. It was after his 58-page refusal to grant an injunction that the Department of Justice, Department of the Army and Department of the Interior stepped in with its demand for a voluntary moratorium on pipeline construction bordering or underneath Lake Oahe.

Many media outlets painted the moratorium as a victory, but DAPL supporters say it's only a delay. While it invites US tribes to "formal, government-to-government consultations" on the project, there's no guarantee that it will result in a decisive defeat of the pipeline. For that reason, actions have endured to block any construction, and the work of the water protectors continues.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe have appealed Judge Boasberg's decision, and while it awaits a ruling from the appeal court, work on the pipeline is formally shut down.

Photos by Zack Leclaire

The Nation's fall and winter activity guide

by Joshua Grant

The coolest part of winter

As the weather starts to cool, some people begin to pull out their Halloween decorations and others sip their pumpkin spice lattes, it's time to start thinking about ways to stay active and keep the family busy during the autumn and winter months.

While hockey, hunting, snowmobiling and trapping are all generally accessible throughout Eeyou Istchee, there are also plenty of other options for entertainment, exhibitions and recreational activities in the Montreal region and other parts of Quebec. Here's our annual list of suggestions for fall and winter tourism.

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La Grande Braderie de Mode Québécoise

If you look up the English translation for "grande braderie" you'll get results for clearance sale, discount store and rummage sale. La Grande Braderie de Mode Québécoise is all of the above, with an added hint of high fashion. It features clothing and accessories from designers across the province and samples and inventory surplus marked down by 50% to 80%. This year's discount shopping festival runs October 7-8 in Gatineau, October 20-23 in Montreal, October 28-30 in Sherbrooke and November 4-6 in Quebec City. Anything that survives the four weeks of sales will be available for purchase online from November 25-27.
Visit the Braderie de Mode Québécoise website for more info.

National Education Fair

Montreal's Place Bonaventure hosts the 2016 National Education Fair October 13-14 and aims to bring together resources related to pursuing education, or professional training and planning a career path. Young people and adults are invited to explore their options at schools across Quebec and learn what it takes to gain employment in different featured industries. Construction, security and prevention, video games and visual effects, maritime, metallurgy, natural resources (mining and forestry), automobile servicing and road transport are this year's highlighted industry sectors.

www.nationaleducationfair.com

Salon National des Animaux de Compagnie

Animal lovers are sure to enjoy Quebec's domesticated animal show, which will be in Quebec City October 22-23 and in Montreal November 5-6. Each two-day exposition showcases thousands of animals – including rabbits, rodents, fish and birds – plus national canine agility competitions, a cat championship and pony rides. Tickets range from $10 to $14.

www.snac.ca.

La Grande Dégustation de Montréal

Montreal's "big tasting" brings together wine producers, distillers, brewers, consumers and connoisseurs November 3-5 at Place Bonaventure to sample and purchase wine, beers and spirits from across the globe. Discover new products, meet the people who create your favourite blends and pick up some fancy gifts for the holidays. This year's three themes are the wines of Argentina and Chile, Shiraz wine and whiskeys from around the world.

www.lagrandedegustation.com

Salon des métiers d'art

For over 60 years Quebec's craft council has been organizing the province's biggest craft show every December at Montreal's Place Bonaventure. Featuring all sorts of fine arts, crafts, artisans and live demonstrations, the Salon des métiers d'art boasts free admission and is some of the best one-stop Christmas shopping you can find in the city. This year's edition takes place December 8-18.

www.metiersdart.ca/en/salon-metiers-art-montreal

Igloofest

Montreal is known for its summer festival fervour but Igloofest flips the script by throwing an outdoor musical celebration over four weekends in the middle of winter, complete with a contest for best vintage snow-suit, ice slides, ice bars and igloos. Set in the Old Port, Igloofest 2017 rolls out January 12-February 4 with shows planned Thursday, Friday and Saturday on

NHL Hockey

While the NHL regular season doesn't kick off until October 12, there are a number of pre-season games planned in early October. Pre-season match-ups may lack some of the intensity of regular league play, but they are more affordable and offer the chance to see some young prospects take the ice against NHL competition for the first time. This pre-season there is even a game at the Centre Vidéotron in Quebec City pitting the Boston Bruins against the Montreal Canadiens.

Other pre-season games within reach of the Cree Nation include the Habs and Senators at Ottawa's Canadian Tire Centre October 1, the Maple Leafs and Canadiens October 6 at the Bell Centre in Montreal and the Buffalo Sabres against the Senators in Ottawa on October 7.
www.canadiens.nhl.com or www.senators.nhl.com

Left: Canadiens prospect, Mikhail Sergachev;
Middle & right: La Grande Dégustation de Montreal

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et du Nord québécois
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sur l'environnement et le milieu social

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Hunting Fishing & Camping Show

The Hunting, Fishing and Camping Show, February 16-19 at Place Bonaventure, usually includes a casting pond, a child's fishing tournament, duck decoy contest and boat giveaways, tons of product displays and professional seminars on hunting, fishing and the outdoors. The show also offers an airsoft range, shooting and archery simulations, lumberjack shows and other special activities for the avid outdoors person and their family.

salonexpertchassemontreal.ca

each weekend from 7:30 pm to 12:30 am. If you're into electronic music or looking for a fun weekend activity in the city, Igloofest consistently brings together a stellar line-up of international DJs and crowds of fun, energetic people looking to beat the winter blues. The full line-up will be revealed in the coming months. https://igloofest.ca

Fête des Neiges de Montréal

With a similar schedule to Igloofest – taking place over several weekends January 14-February 5 – La Fête des Neiges de Montréal is a free family event that offers a host of exciting winter activities in Parc Jean-Drapeau. While the full schedule and line-up will be revealed in late November, visitors can expect ziplines, tube sliding, dogsled tours, skating, live kids shows and concerts.

www.parcjeandrapeau.com/en/fete-des-neiges-de-montreal

Le Salon de l'Amour et de la Séduction

Quebec's major consumer romance show – sometimes called the "Everything to do with Sex Show" – is back for a 23rd year January 20-22, promising "tantalizing stage shows, educational seminars, live erotic art performances, a kinky playroom and a whole lot of shopping." Friends, couples and singles over the age of 18 are welcome to a festival that promotes sexual health and sexual education in an open and playful atmosphere free from judgement. If you're looking to spice up your love life, get some tips on trying something new or simply step outside your comfort zone, a day at the Sex Show in Place Bonaventure will not disappoint.

http://montreal.amouretseduction.com/en

The Auto Show

Montreal's International Auto Show is back at Palais des congrès January 20-29, offering a chance to check out some of the world's hottest rides, see cutting-edge automotive technology in action and talk to auto experts about your next purchase. Whether you want to do some research before you buy a new car, van or truck, get the lowdown on potential performance upgrades or vehicle accessories for your current vehicle or simply see the unveiling of 2017's crop of luxury sport cars, hybrids and sedans, the Montreal Auto Show has it all.

www.montrealautoshow.com/en

Montreal Boat and Water Sports Show

While February may seem a little early to be thinking about getting out on the water, Montreal's Boat and Water Sports Show offers marine enthusiasts the chance to forget about winter and start planning for boating season. This year's edition runs February 4-7 at Place Bonaventure and offers presentations by boating, fishing and environmental experts as well as massive showrooms showcasing motors, trailers, docks, navigation technology, water sports equipment and vessels of all shapes and sizes – from trawlers and fishing vessels to pontoon boats and luxury yachts. www.salondubateau.com

Montréal en lumière

Montréal en lumière is a city-wide festival in downtown Montreal that celebrates the city's culture with performing arts, fine cuisine and fun for the whole family February 23-March 12. Live concerts, theatre, fancy-food outings and a free outdoors site near Place-des-Arts are all part of the schedule, which culminates in a nuit blanche (all-nighter) where local museums, bars, clubs, music venues and restaurants all host special activities until the morning.

www.montrealenlumiere.com

The Motorcycle Show

Montreal's Salon de la Moto rolls into Palais des congrès February 24-26. The show features models from industry leaders in a wide range of products and the Yamaha Riding Academy gives young ones the chance to suit up in motocross gear and try out youth-sized dirt bikes.

www.salonmotomontreal.ca

Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the rest of Quebec

Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Back for its 35th year, Abitibi's international film festival will be held in Rouyn-Noranda October 29-November 3. "A true celebration of cinema and all its forms of expression" this year's event will screen over 100 films from 30+ countries and feature short, medium and full-length films in documentary, animation and fiction categories.

www.festivalcinema.ca/en

Quebec Winter Carnival

One of the biggest winter carnivals in the world and certainly the biggest in Quebec, the Winter Carnival on the Plains of Abraham attracts tourists and locals alike and is scheduled January 27-February 12. Ice sculptures, ice bars, illuminated streets, ice canoe races, parades, giant foosball, skating, live shows and sleigh rides are just a few of the exciting activities planned for this year's event. In order to attend visitors over the age of eight must purchase an effigy of the festival's famous mascot, Bonhomme (snowman).

https://carnaval.qc.ca

Carnaval de Lorrainville

On January 28-29 the town of Lorrainville (south of Rouyn-Noranda near the Ontario border) hosts its annual winter carnival. Snow sculpting, dogsledding, tobogganing, inflatables and live shows are all a part of this year's event.

www.carnavaldelorrainville.ca

Festi-Volant de Grandes-Piles

Located to the east of the Mauricie National Park and right on the banks of the Saint Maurice River, Grande-Piles hosts an annual winter kite-flying festival with this year's planned for January 29-31. Festi-Volant also features ice fishing, paraskiing, a massive tube slide and a Nordic village with tasty treats and other fun attractions.

www.festivolant.com

Winterlude Festival

For three weeks in Ottawa and Gatineau (February 3-20), Winterlude festival celebrates winter and takes over the Rideau Canal and Confederation Park in Ottawa as well as Jacques Cartier Park in downtown Gatineau. Confederation Park holds the launch party on February 3 with live music and an outdoor dance party amongst a host of ice sculptures. Other activities include skating, skating lessons, ice hockey tournaments and a decorated bed race all on the canal. Jacques Cartier Park hosts a huge outdoor snow playground called Snowflake Kingdom, open all week excluding Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

www.ottawatourism.ca/ottawa-insider/winterlude

La fête d'hiver de Rouyn-Noranda

Running February 17-19, Rouyn's winter festival will offer tubing, dog sled and horse carriage rides, a snow maze, foot hockey, a winter footrace and live performances for the family in the warmth of a circus tent. Here's another chance to plan an outing with your kids and make the most of the winter weather.

www.lafetedhiver.com

Festival Folifrets Baie-James

Chibougamau's Folifrets James Bay festival features snowmobile races, evening concerts and a full day of family activities, February 23-March 4. While the full programming has yet to be announced, festival-goers can expect exciting rally and cross country skidoo competitions, great food and music and inflatables, a giant slide, boot hockey, maple pulls, cotton candy and hotdogs plus an outdoor teepee at the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre.

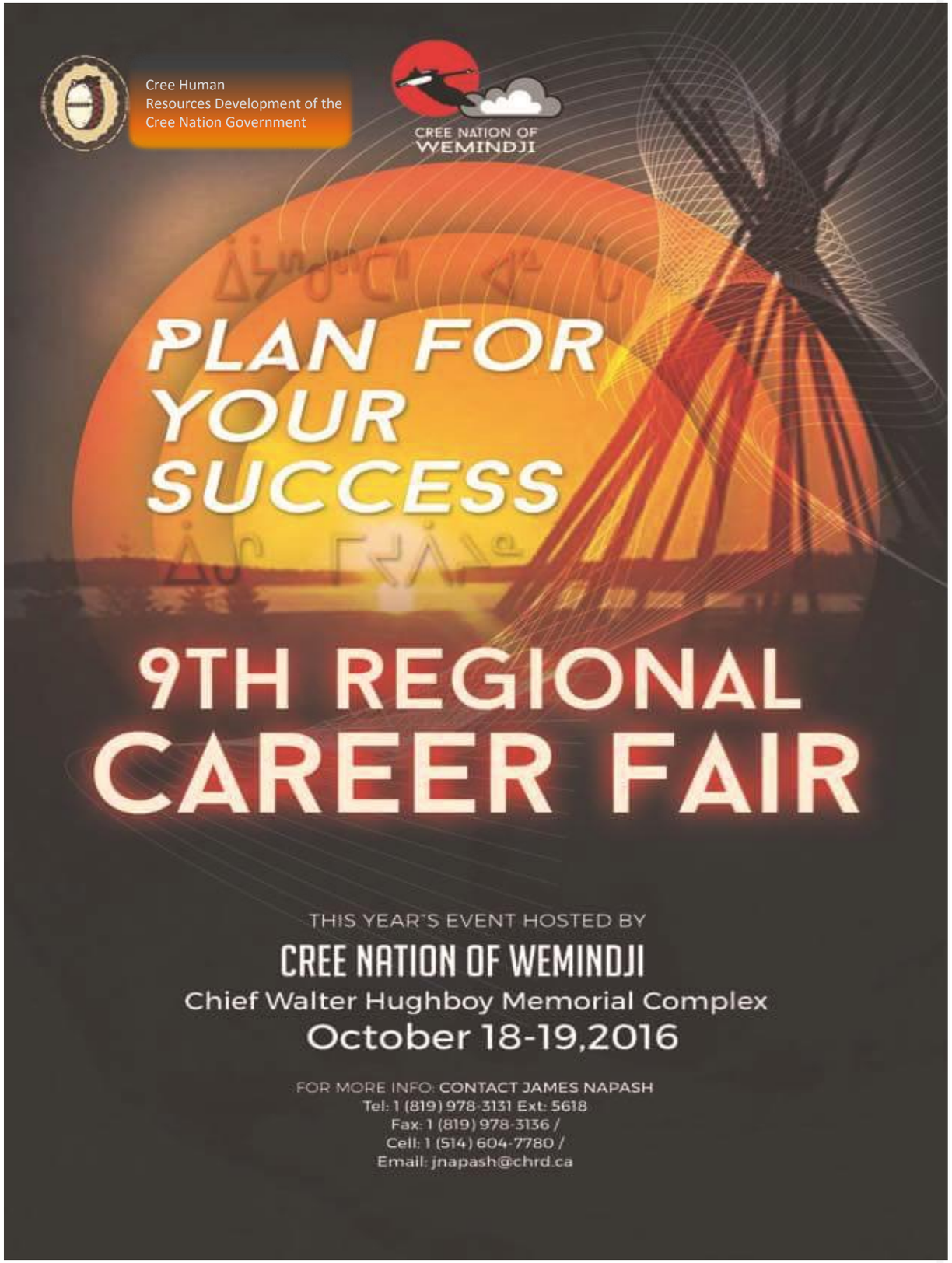
www.festivalfolifrets.com

Les Hivernades de Chicoutimi

Chicoutimi's winter celebration blends traditional activities with dancing, music, snowmobile and ATV rides plus an outdoor amusement area for little ones with inflatables, skating, dog-sledding and horseback riding. February 25-March 5 in the Saguenay region, Les Hivernades promise fun times for the whole crew only a five-hour drive from Eeyou Istchee's inland communities.

www.leshivernades.com

Snowshoeing on Le Massif de Charlevoix north east of Québec City



Photos provided by Nemaska Chief Thomas Jolly and Christopher Herodier

Strengthening *the spirit*

Nemaska residents reconnect with the **shaking tent ceremony**

by Dan Isaac

The voices of Elders, youth and women flooded a crowded gymnasium in Nemaska for the sixth annual Nishiiyu Council of Elders Cultural Gathering September 5-8. The event brought together more than 30 speakers during 16 workshops that offered an opportunity for youth and Elders to reconnect, to share stories and perspectives, and to strengthen the community.

The vision of the event is based on the Cree Nishiiyu value that "everyone is equally important and respected, and that's how we survived through the ages," said organizer Stella Bearskin.

But more than that, the annual event is about the reclamation of culture and spirit after the legacy of residential schools did everything it could to destroy traditional values.

"It's time we as a nation effectively assess how colonization has impacted our society at the cultural, social, psychological and spiritual level," said former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash, who conducted a shaking tent ceremony.

"The idea behind the gathering was to get different organizations and people together to work towards a common goal," said Bearskin. "The Elders are the teachers, guides and keepers of cultural knowledge. So this gathering was about bridging that gap between Elders and youth and rebuilding and strengthening Cree culture."

Much of the event was devoted to spiritual practices, another aspect of Cree culture decimated through the process of colonization.

"Often, the challenges we face today are the result of unresolved inter-generational trauma that may stem from four, five or more generations back as a result of colonial policies Canada put in place to eradicate First Nations language, culture and way of life across the country," said Mukash.

Mukash comes from "a lineage of carriers of the shake tent and other ceremonies," and believes a return to ceremony is necessary, not only for the Eeyou Istchee, but for all Indigenous nations to heal from the many traumas associated with colonization.

"For me, traditional Eeyou ceremonies are among the most important tools that could help improve the health and well-being of our communities," said Mukash. "And if we as individuals can walk in balance, then our families will start to do the same."

The shaking tent ceremony has an expansive history and is said to have come to Eeyou Istchee in a dream. In the past the ceremony was used to help hunters when they

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Photos by Steve Gerecke / Sean Sisk
Photography for Sound Check Entertainment (2016)

by Dan Isaac

The Big Stage

Midnight Shine reflects on their time in the spotlight

As the sun shines in their faces and the 1000-person crowd starts moving, the anxiety that had preceded the walk out to their stage marks melts away, leaving in its place a calm, euphoric flow.

"The sound is so big," said lead singer Adrian Sutherland. "It felt just like the first time I got on stage in front of my community. It was kind of nerve-racking, but for me it was like a rite of passage."

It was the third venue, second festival and city in three nights for the James Bay quartet Midnight Shine. Over the September 16-18 weekend, the band performed two shows at the Toronto Urban Roots Fest and a Sunday set at Ottawa's CityFolk festival.

But it was the first time the band had played a festival stage in their four years together. "It's an amazing experience playing larger shows like that. Definitely something fresh and new for all of us," added guitarist Zach Tomatuk.

In addition to the stage and crowd, it was a big moment, and admittedly there were butterflies. "There's a nervousness that comes over me before hitting the stage," drummer George Gillies acknowledged. "But after the first or second song, I calm down and think, 'This is what was born to I do.'"

The size of crowd and venue weren't the only differences the band noticed on their Ontario tour. When performing at smaller venues the band has become accustomed to setting up their own stage. "When we got there the crew took our equipment and set it up for us and then drove us around in golf carts," said an amused Gillies.

On one occasion, in a small community, they even had to do their own sound rigging, though no one in the band can call himself a sound engineer. "It was like an operation, we were all like doctors standing over a patient with scalpels trying to figure out what to do," joked Gillies. "In the end Stan was able to get the sound just good enough to do a show."

Top (from left to right): Stan Louttit, Adrian Sutherland, Zach Tomatuk and George Gillies

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The contest runs from September 30, 2016, through November 30, 2016, and is open to members of the Cree nation living in one of the Native communities of Eeyou Istchee who are at least 18 years of age. Limit of one entry per person per day. The winner will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on December 14, 2016, during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS.

But the size of the show didn't change the band's approach. "Part of music is exploring, and there are definitely a lot of fresh faces when we play down south, but either way we're there to play our asses off," said Tomatuk.

Their preparation, however, was a bit different this time around. As they all reside in distant James Bay communities, the band members try to get in rehearsals for three days before big shows. This time they added a few extra days of practice.

Most of their time together on this trip was spent at the Jukasa Studios on Six Nations territory, where they recorded a new song called "Sister" to be released early next year. "It's a poem my sister, Iris, wrote about the struggles of today and trying to get back to the good times of the past," explained Sutherland.

The three shows in three nights represented the busiest weekend of their professional careers. The festival weekend also signalled the next step for Midnight Shine. They played alongside classic Canadian acts like The Barenaked Ladies and Matthew Good, as well as big draws like Death Cab for Cutie, Vance Joy, and The Sheepdogs. They even got the chance to play a set at Toronto's legendary venue Lee's Palace.

"It feels surreal. I never would have imagined my music would have taken me this far," said Sutherland. "But at the same time I feel like we're just getting started and there's a lot of music ahead of us."

Up next for Midnight Shine is a return trip to Toronto in October. A third album is in the works for next year – "Sister" will be the first single – and they're already planning for next year's festival season.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00		Rental** 5:00-6:00	Rental** 5:00-6:00

Chisasibi Swimming Pool Center
503, Weeskiichaansh Road P.O. Box 150
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Kaanihtaauchimaahch

Road hogs

by Sonny Orr

Rez Notes

"Yes, I'll take the baby car seat and GPS options please, plus the take-it-to-the-max insurance," I tell the tall, young, professional-looking man at the car rental counter. In short order I had my pick of colour and finish. Two hours later, I'm driving through some fog-covered township north of Montreal when the fatigue starts kicking in. Two deer leap out of the way, along with my heart and tired body and I decide to call it a night. I had just worked all day then took the plane from Great Whale to Montreal to rent a vehicle with unlimited mileage. Groaning I pull up to a well-lit hotel and spend the night.

Early the next morning my caffeine addiction hits full steam. Gulping down a complimentary KCup coffee is not enough as I head north to Val-d'Or, then onwards to Chisasibi, humming along for a few minutes before braking for potholes. It's like that for most of the final thousand kilometres to the Big River. Early in the morning I check into the bed and breakfast, which is thankfully well out of range of Chisasibi's bustling nightlife. I wake up not knowing where I am.

After a quick breakfast sandwich, I wait it out at the local airport to pick up my family, who are eager to head out on this road trip. At least I didn't rent a station wagon, I was thinking. Twelve hours later we arrive at a well-known hotel in Val-d'Or to spend the first night, then head off to the Ontario side of our little world. For the next five days we stayed in that beautiful country that has no potholes or cracks on their roads. The baby on board slept like a baby.

After what seemed like weeks of night after night of sleeping in different towns, I finally settled back down after returning the still sizzling rental to the airport outlet. The well-groomed, walking, talking mannequin salesperson questioned my cleanliness because of the scuzzy looking appearance of the minivan.

"Yeah, isn't it great?" I said in my tried-and-true style of getting away with things, and then paid the final balance with the prepaid credit card. "The trip was great, went to New Mexico because it's kind of cold up north, then headed to Alaska afterwards."

> "The elephants held up a **massive gong** which had ornate wood working reminiscent of **17th century British India**. I imagine the opulence involved with the dinner presentation, or did they eat a lot of curried foods and rice's? **Elephant steak and ribs anyone?**"

After the classic quizzical look from the sales guy I added, "Yeah, it was too hot in New Mexico, so I went north to cool off then I came back, that's why there's nearly 9000 clicks on the odometer." An eye-popping moment went by. "Yeah, sorry just joshing," I said to relieve the tension. "I went to James Bay twice."

After a quick recovery and a well wish, I was walking back to the free shuttle bus to the nearest hotel to check in and collapse.

At the front desk, I mentioned that I had been here a few days earlier and had forgotten something dear to me in the room, an antique from India. It was a wooden elephant that stood eight inches high and had real ancient ivory and a rugged old carved look about it. There were three others like it and they were the footing for a dinner gong. The elephants held up a massive gong that had ornate woodworking reminiscent of 17th-century British India.

This wooden elephant was little more than an antique but also a strong reminder of how close the past is to today. History safely packed away in my last-minute luggage purchase, bought just to store items left behind on our lengthy family journey in the quest for great breakfast joints and fine clothing.

The shuttle jolted violently, waking me, as it bumped along in the early morning hours on the roads to the Montreal airport that are amazingly always under construction. Then I check in for the last 1800-km ride home. I'm still strung out and walking rather robotically as I land back home then head to work for the rest of the afternoon. It's payday and some people I know tend to start getting edgy. My mind still works and I slowly walk up the final steps to my home and head to bed. Soon, the family notices that I have returned and I sleep like a baby, but cry all night. My eyes can't open anymore, afraid to see that yellow line again.

UTNS

Under the Northern Sky

Changing with the seasons

by Xavier Kataquapit

Well, it looks like winter is just around the corner. I am surprised that the leaves are changing colour in mid-September but then again I am in the north and that should be expected. After one of the warmest summers I've ever experienced, I am looking forward to cooler days and nights.

Ask any Cree or Ojibway person from northern Ontario and they will tell you they prefer winter to summer. In remote communities this comes from the freedom that winter brings. Ice on the rivers and lakes and snow-covered land make it easier to snowshoe, snowmobile or drive out of the community. In the summer, we are mostly landlocked in remote northern First Nations, surrounded by muskeg and billions of mosquitoes. The winter is clean, bright and has traditionally been a time of movement on the land.

Northerners are a tough bunch. Many towns in the north offer all kinds of winter fun and activities that are easy to access and cost little to nothing. You can go to a hockey game in any of these northern communities and if you want to have a friendly little game you can still play for fun on a local rink or even on the snow-covered street. All of these communities and most First Nations also have sports complexes with arenas. Some even have pools and curling rinks. Many communities in the north have auditoriums where local performers and out-of-town stars entertain us in the winter. Many also have thriving arts organizations that host art exhibitions, musical and dance performances and live theatre.

Winter is anything but boring up here in the northland. The coffee shops and restaurants are busy much of the time as people feel the need to get out and about and enjoy the social interaction around town. Although the highways can be dangerous at times, the driving is very good around all the northern cities and towns. Our public works crews have a lot of experience with winter.

As northerners we have the gift of living through four seasons. We live in change and we adapt well to what Mother Nature has to offer. Right now the leaves on the trees around town are lighting up in colours of orange, yellow and red. All of our northern communities are coming alive in vibrant fall colours. I am putting away my summer wear and pulling out sweaters, pants and jackets. I am even thinking it is time soon for my long underwear. I don't fool around when it gets cold as I learned from my mom and dad that cold weather is just fine as long as you are dressed for it.

One of the best things about living in the north is that any of us can get to a quiet piece of land, a wonderful lakefront setting, a rushing river or little mountain perch with just a short trip by car. We can ski, trap, hunt, fish and skate in winter without a big effort to do so. We can also do it for free most of the time. Rarely, do we have to line up for a hockey game, arts entertainment or restaurant. Things are easy to get to for we northerners.

Winter is very good for young people and those who are middle-aged, however seniors do have more challenges this time of the year. We should be putting together more programs in all of our northern communities to make sure that our elderly neighbours can enjoy their homes in even severe winter weather. We need programs where we offer a snow-cleaning service to our Elders and transportation that is affordable and easy-to-get for trips to the grocery store or a visit or an outing to the local coffee shop. We forget at times that all of our wonderful northern communities are the result of our Elders who came before us and worked hard to provide us with all the services and development we see today. The wisdom and experience in life lives in our Elders and we should be doing a lot more to honour them while also benefiting from their advice.

Life is good here in the north and once again we are changing with the seasons.

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Thank You!

From Bella M. Petawabano

I extend my deepest thanks to the population of Eeyouch and Eenouch in Eeyou Istchee for having re-elected me as the Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay.

I want to thank my family for their ongoing support, and my campaign team who worked hard and diligently during this short and intense campaign. Thank you for believing in me!

Thank you to the communities that nominated me: Mistissini, Waswanipi, Waskaganish, Eastmain and Wemindji (2 nominations). I am grateful for your confidence.

I would not be here without the support of the community of Mistissini, which first elected me to the Board of the CBHSSJB as a Community Representative in 1980. I served 18 years in this position before being elected to my first term as Chairperson four years ago.

I am very honoured to be able to continue the work that we have begun over the last four years and keep the momentum going. Everything that has been accomplished so far has been the result of a team effort with my fellow members of the Board of Directors and our stakeholders and partners inside and outside our region. I am very grateful to our employees and professionals who demonstrate their devotion to our population every day.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the other candidates in this important election – Charles Bobbish, Mabel Herodier, Pauline Lameboy and Clarence Snowboy. This election is a healthy democratic exercise that serves the best interest of our population.

I am ready to meet, with your support, the main challenges that we are facing as a Nation. We will be guided by priorities identified by members of all communities at the Eeyou/Eenou Regional General Assembly on Health and Social Services in Waskaganish last spring.

The plan is clear and we will secure the resources to carry it out. I will devote my time, energy and passion to provide the best health and social services for our population.

Thank you once again for putting me "back on my chair". I look forward to an exciting and productive four years.

- Bella M. Petawabano
Mistissini, September 7, 2016

Find out more : www.creehealth.org
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and Instagram @creehealth

Photo: Chairperson of the CBHSSJB Bella M. Petawabano with other members of the Board of Directors and interim ED, at the September 15, 2016 swearing ceremony and feast in Waskaganish.

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